

Open Space & Brownfields

June 9, 2021

1:00pm-2:00pm

Zoom



Agenda

I. Welcome and Introductions

- 14 attendees; 5 Camden residents/businesses

II. Hot Topics

- a. Reactions from April meeting's special presentation from Maria Richardson, Director, Recreation, Natural Resources & Culture, City of Trenton:
 - Glad to have a better working relationship with the county parks department
 - Thankful of the support of many entities regardless of their ability to assist
 - Interested in learning more about the park ranger program in Trenton
 - Poignant memory: how Trenton crafted funding to make the parks program work, never turned away from funding opportunities
 - Will have determine what the new administration's agenda is regarding parks
 - Utilizing planning in decision-making

III. Park Planning

- a. Current Issues
 - Camden Parks Steering Committee Meeting takeaways
 1. Completed Parks Plan from 2020 (goes through status and condition of current parks with an equity lens)
 2. Some exercises to think about where attention should be; the meeting highlighted the need for maintenance
- b. Key Next Steps
 - Invite Discover the Delaware to present at future meeting

IV. Park Security & Maintenance

- a. Current Issues
 - ATVs
 1. Recently have had some issues with dirt bikes at RCA pier park
 2. NJCF: having trouble connecting the dots to have police enforce
 - a. Will be re-evaluating how to approach this on a state-wide level
 - b. Coordinate the approach since it is an issue everywhere (urban and rural)
 3. County police say they've been doing more confiscations but unsure if it's making a difference
 4. Issue: pursuit is a concern because of the possibility of injury in pursuit (all they can really do is confiscate)
 - a. What is the difference with pulling over a car or motorcycle?

- ATV/ dirt bike maybe less likely to stop
- 5. Issue: these parks are grant funded so there are little funds for maintenance if any at all
- 6. DEP liaison in Millville: built an ATV park
 - a. Where in Camden: Cramer Hill Park? Laney Ditch Park? Pennsauken?
- 7. Camden Redevelopment Agency: has had entrepreneurs interested in building a dirt bike park before. Such a park could create job opportunities.
 - a. Camden and Pennsauken could work together on this
 - b. Issue with dirt bike park is people still need to get there so would be riding on the streets; it is a barrier to assume people can otherwise transport their dirt bike/ ATV
- 8. Takeaways: statewide approach, homework on our end to inform a discussion about the potential in Camden for this park
- 9. Police should be more aggressive (fines?)
- b. Key Next Steps
 - Look into Jersey dirt bike/ ATV parks (size requirements, etc.): Trenton and Millville
 - 1. Come up with a potential proposition to site a dirt bike park if research warrants such a plan for Camden
 - Leading with Lead: vacant lot and open space lead dust mitigation and greening plan coming in the late summer/early fall

V. Brownfields

- a. Current Issues
 - Lot 1, Block 1: large (11.6 acres or 17.2 with wetlands) park with the Benjamin Cooper building; open land, wetland
 - 1. Privately owned for a long time. Company purchased property and without getting permits from DEP, started dumping on this site
 - 2. Lot is filled with construction fill; encroachment in wetlands and flood hazard area; site is contaminated
 - 3. 2 ACO issues; certain deadlines not met so both groups are meeting internally to figure out next steps to get the entity in compliance
 - 4. Deferred to division of law at this point; could potentially get to be a lawsuit issue
 - 5. This work is a part of the North Camden plan
 - Other
 - 1. For the redevelopment of brownfields into parks, housing, etc.
 - a. Will get that info on neighborhood-by-neighborhood level by looking at the plans, not on a city-level
 - b. Or DCA opportunity zone list
 - c. Or map created in 2015: Camden identified priority brownfield sites (CRA webpage)
 - d. <https://www.njmap2.com/communityassets/camden/?override=1&zoom=13&lat=39.9361879&lng=->

[75.1075622&sc=0&basemap=Google%20Satellite&layers=99
1,949,1052&ois=&oms=&po=](https://www.google.com/maps/@75.1075622,1.9491052,99t/data=!3m1!1e3!3m1!1s0x890000000000000000:0x0000000000000000?sc=0&basemap=Google%20Satellite&layers=99)

- ^^ this map has layer for brownfields

b. Key Next Steps

- List of brownfields projects underway
 1. North Camden community wide program: Environmental Assessments from properties in North Camden—reviewing proposals now to get the condition of some brownfield sites

VI. Programming

a. Current Issues

- CAS: doing some activities with a cost to pay for some free programming
 1. Contact trails@aquaticsciences.org if you know of a group 11+ for a kayaking trip
 2. Fishing oppurtunties coming
- Pyne Poynt Park issue with parking/ unloading

b. Key Next Steps

VII. Additional Information/Resources

DISCLAIMER: This is a summary of the meeting and is based upon the written notes and memory of individuals from Cooper's Ferry Partnership and members of the CCI Core Team. The notes are intended to capture only the main points made in the meeting, and they reflect comments on work-in-progress. The notes do not imply a specific opinion or commitment on the part of any individual or organization represented at the meeting. Report any corrections to camdencollaborative@coopersferry.com

Next Meeting: CCI Community Meeting, July 14th at 1 pm